Bharat Bhavan Nyas

3369. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the happenings in Bharat Bhavan Nyas in the year 1990-91 and onwards;

(b) whether Government agree with the changes made in the Bharat Bhavan Trustee Committee;

(c) whether there are any deviations proposed during 1990-91 and onwards in the basic concept of the said Trust;

(d) if so, the details and Government's action thereto; and

(e) if not, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e). The only official information with the Government of India is contained in a letter sent by Government of India nominee on the Trust, Smt. Pupul Jayakar which was signed by a large number of artists, writers and other personalities. In this letter the signatories voiced their concern at what they termed the politicisation of Bharat Bhavan. In order to understand the position better and to ascertain the new policy of the State Government, the Government of India have been asking the State Government to forward details of the changes made in the relevant Act. The State Government have not forwarded any details so far.

3370. [*Transferred to the 12th August, 1992*].

Drop Outs in Bihar

3371. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the drop outs in school in primary, middle and secondary levels in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, what was their number in each levels; and

(c) what remedial action Government have taken or propose to take to tackle the problem of school drop outs in the State of Bihar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) No specific survey has been conducted in Bihar to assess rate of drop outs at various levels of education. However, such data is collected annually for all States/UTs. As per latest data availabe for 1987-88, in Bihar the situation was as folows:

Classes	Rate (%)
I—V	65.63
I—VIII	79.08
I—X	85.27

As regards remedial action for reduction of drop outs, the causes leading to drop out being many, there is no single programme which if implemented would lead to a specified reduction in the drop outs. The state Government has taken following steps in this regard:

(i) Provision of incentives such as free text books, free uniforms, scholarships and mid-day meals etc.;

(ii) community mobilisation to the need for literacy;

(iii) appointment of an additional teacher in single teacher schools;

(iv) provision of day care centres (Anganawadis) either near or attached to schools to take care of younger siblings.

In addition central assistance has been provided and will continue during VIII Plan for expansion of facilities in primary schools under the scheme of Operation Blackboard for diversification and improvement of non-formal education and for programmes relating to teacher training etc. Under Bihar Education Project, seven districts are being covered in 1992-93 and special emphasis would be laid on retention of students in the school system.

Achievement of Higher Literacy percentage

3372. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the average literacy percentage at the start of Seventh Five Year Plan and achievement upto March, 1992;

(b) allocation made for the purpose for the period and its utilisation by each State;

(c) whether it is a fact that no substancial progress has been achieved except in Kerala; and

(d) steps proposed to be taken to achieve higher average percentage during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The literacy data in the country is collected through the decennial census operations. The literacy rate according to 1981 and 1991 census for the population aged 7-years and above was 43:56 per cent and 52.11 per cent. respectively.

(b) No specific allocation of funds is made to States/UT Administrations under the Adult Education Programme. Central assistance is released each year on the basis of the proposals received from each State/UT. A statement showing the amount of grants released to the various States/UTs under the centrally sponsored schemes during the Seventh Five Year Plan for the adult literacy programmes is attached. (See below).

(c) No, Sir. Apart from Kerala, the entire State of Goa, the Union Territory of Pondicherry and nine districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal have successfully completed their Total Literacy campaigns. Presently total Literacy Campaigns are being implemented in 156 districts in the country either fully or partially, covering about 50.00 million potential learners in different age groups.

(d) Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education and the National Literacy Mission which aims at imparting functional literacy to 80.00 million adult literates in the 15—35 age group by 1995 from an integral part of a larger programme for eradication of illiteracy. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, under the National Literacy Mission, it is expected that about 104 million persons in the 15-35 age-group would be imparted functional literacy in this period. It is hoped that with the combined efforts under the programme of Universalisation Elementary Education and the National Literacy Mission the Literacy rate in the country may go up to 70—75 per cent by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, a stage which is considered crucial for achieving total literacy in the subsequent 2-3 years.